

Serial No.: 09/455,102

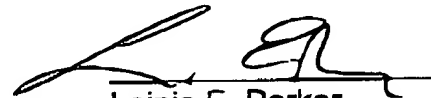
REMARKS

The present amendment amends claim 90 to attend to a word processing matter. A marked version of the amended claim is attached. Presently, claims 1-33 and 35-97 are pending.

Claim 90, added to the application via a Supplemental Amendment filed April 25, 2001, was to be similar to allowable claim 47, except that it recites sodium silicate instead of an alkali metal silicate. As a result of word processing, claim 90 submitted in the Supplemental Amendment was exactly the same as claim 47. The present amendment changes claim 90 to recite sodium silicate instead of an alkali metal silicate. This amendment does not narrow the claims, since it merely attends to a word processing matter to avoid having two identical claims in the same application and to make claim 90 consistent with the remarks in the Supplemental Amendment.

In accordance with the above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED VERSION OF AMENDMENTSIN THE CLAIMS:

The following claim has been amended.

90. (Amended) Aqueous polysilicate microgel obtained by mixing (i) an aqueous solution of [alkali metal] sodium silicate with (ii) an aqueous phase of silica-based material having a pH of 11 or less and (iii) an organic acid.

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